

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 4875

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT (LTEA)

REF: STATE 275752

1. SUMMARY. COUNCIL ACCEPTED PUBLICATION OF LTEA (WITH U.S. CHANGES) UNDER SECGEN'S AUTHORITY DEC 17. UK AND AUSTRALIA EXPRESSED OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION. SECRETARIAT, GERMANY AND FRANCE STRONGLY ARGUED IN FAVOR, AND U.S. CONCURRED IN PUBLICATION. LTEA WILL BE RELEASED TO PRESS THIS WEEK UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL JAN. 13 OECD PRESS CONFERENCE. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT BRIEF WASHINGTON PRESS ON BACKGROUND BASIS. (SEE PARA BELOW.) END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION OBTAINED SECRETARIAT AGREEMENT ON ALL CHANGES IN LTEA LISTED IN REFTEL. FINAL VERSION WILL CLEARLY STATE THAT LTEA IS PUBLISHED ON AUTHORITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEC GEN AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT VIEWS OF MEMBER

GOVERNMENTS.

3. IN COUNCIL MEETING, UK REP (GALLAGHER) SAID THAT SUFFICIENT CHANGES HAD BEEN MADE IN SECTION 13.4 ON MONETARY COOPERATION BUT THAT HMG STILL FELT PUBLICATION OF LTEA WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES SINCE OPEC COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO QUOTE FROM IT TO JUSTIFY PRESENT HIGH-PRICE POLICY. AUSTRALIA SUPPORTED UK.

4. SECRETARIAT (ELDIN) ARGUED THAT ASSESSMENT WAS A PRUDENT, BALANCED REPORT WHICH GENERALLY REFLECTED OECD MEMBER VIEWS. ENERGY DIRECTOR LANTZKE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE DATA IN PRESENT VERSION OF LTEA COULD IN ANY WAY BE CONSTRUED AS JUSTIFYING PRICE LEVELS.

5. GERMAN AND FRENCH REPS ARGUED STRONGLY FOR PUBLICATION. AMB. TURNER SAID U.S. DID NOT OBJECT TO PUBLICATION WITH CHANGES AGREED UPON. SECGEN THEN CONCLUDED BY ASKING COUNCIL TO NOTE HIS INTENTION TO PUBLISH REPORT' AND CALLING ATTENTION TO FACT THAT COUNCIL WOULD RETURN TO TOPIC AT AN EARLY DATE TO DISCUSS APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION. UK REP DID NOT PURSUE HIS OBJECTIONS.

6. SECRETARIAT PLANS TO RELEASE LTEA TO PRESS AT END OF THIS WEEK WITH STIPULATION THAT IT WILL BE EMBARGOED UNTIL JAN. 13, WHEN SECGEN, LANTZKE AND DR. SCHNEIDER WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON IT. IT IS BEING RELEASED EARLY IN ORDER THAT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO DIGEST THE FULL STUDY. SECGEN WILL ATTEMPT THROUGH PRESS CONFERENCE TO ENSURE MEDIA GIVES LTEA BALANCED COVERAGE AND PRESENTS ITS ARGUMENTS FULLY. MISSION SUGGESTS WASHINGTON CONSIDER GIVING BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS TO ASSIST OECD EFFORTS TO ENSURE GOOD MEDIA UNDERSTANDING OF LTEA.
TURNER

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